

TRAIL & *Landscape*

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION



T R A I L & L A N D S C A P E

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THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB
- Founded 1879 -

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, devoted to publishing research in natural history. TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a non-technical publication of general interest to local naturalists.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members.
See inside back cover.

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TRAIL & Landscape

Published by

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB
 Box 3264 Postal Station C,
 Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5

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A CHANGE OF PRESIDENTS

Dr. Irwin Brodo has resigned as President and as a member of the Council in order to begin a sabbatical year of teaching and study at Laval University. His resignation was accepted with regret by the Council at its June 17 meeting. Ernie's great interest in conservation and education, and his fresh approaches to solving problems will be keenly missed. We wish him a successful year and look forward to his return.

Taking Dr. Brodo's place as President is Dr. Ewen Todd. Ewen Todd was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and obtained his B.Sc. and Ph.D. in microbiology at the University of Glasgow. In Scotland he was active in the Andersonian Naturalists of Glasgow which serves the needs of naturalists in the western half of that country; he served on their Council, led botanical excursions, and participated in conservation of areas of natural history significance.

When Ewen came to Ottawa in 1968, he immediately joined the OFNC. He remembers with satisfaction in that year when he had no car that members offered him and his wife rides on excursions, and leaders took time to show them some of the more common as well as the more unusual aspects of natural history of the Ottawa area. He hopes that the Club will continue to serve not only local residents but also visitors and people new to the area.

Ewen was elected to the Council in 1969 and was Chairman of the Excursions and Lectures Committee from 1970 to 1973. He became Second Vice-President in 1971 and Vice-President in 1973. In June 1974 he was appointed by the Council to complete Dr. Brodo's term as president. He hopes that the Club will maintain a balance of interests between natural history and conservation.



Ewen is an employee in the Health Protection Branch in Tunney's Pasture and is concerned with the microbiological aspects of food poisoning. He is married with a 3 year-old son. Both he and his wife are also interested in indoor and outdoor gardening.

1979 IS THE CLUB'S CENTENNIAL YEAR

Members should start thinking now about the way in which they want to see our 100th anniversary commemorated. The Centennial Planning Group wants ideas and is looking to you, the members, for help in planning this very important event in our Club's life. If you have something to offer, contact one of the people named below.

The resolution to appoint a Centennial Planning Group was moved by Hue MacKenzie at the Council Meeting held April 15, 1974 - "moved that a Centennial Planning Group be appointed to commence consideration of how the Club should celebrate its one-hundredth anniversary in 1979". In the discussion which followed, Hue made the following points: as the oldest natural history club in Canada, we have a right and a responsibility to make the event one of the highlights in Canada in 1979. It represents a great opportunity to make the public at large aware that a love of nature and a concern for its conservation is not just a recent development. Our plans should ensure a thorough mix, including acknowledging our origins, describing our accomplishments, and publicizing our objectives so that those who share our outlook can join in helping us.

To do these things successfully, we need to have a plan based on identifying the possible and rejecting the impossible or impractical. This necessitates having a planning group to obtain and evaluate suggestions and place proposals before the Council. The group should consist of people who can evaluate proposals and not be carried away by enthusiasms for schemes which would be beyond our very considerable capabilities. It should include optimists and the theme should basically be, how can we make it happen, not can we afford it? At the same time, they must be realists capable of determining when an idea is simply too costly or too grandiose. In this way, we will stretch our talents and resources to the limit, but not beyond it.

The resolution was passed and the initial appointees are Ernie Brodo (224-7077), Chuck Gruchy (996-1755) and Hue MacKenzie (722-8847).

THE GUESTS ~~

 *a story of
two raccoons*

by Isabel Bayly

The boys found them, calling plaintively, in a ditch, still beside their road-killed mother. They took the raccoons home, but apparently could not persuade their families to keep them. So on a sunny Saturday afternoon in early June, they arrived at the house. The little pair lay in the tomato soup carton. They were small, about five weeks old, not three-quarters filling the bottom of the carton. Perhaps we would take them? Perhaps we might introduce them to a sympathetic mother raccoon? We would, and we would try. So the "guests" became residents. In the short time they stayed with us, we probably learned more about raccoons than in all the years we had spent feeding and observing outdoor raccoons.

First, we laid down house rules. We agreed that caging was out, particularly if we were going to try to return them to nature when they got older. After careful consideration, we decided that the bathroom offered the best accommodation, mainly because it was the easiest room to clean. So after a few days, during which they slept in the carton in the living room, the two were installed in the bathroom.

Keeping uncaged baby raccoons requires careful "clearing of the decks" so far as breakables are concerned. Rooms not to be entered were closed, and rooms to be entered were cleared of bric-a-brac. Even the fireplace screen had to be sewn together with string to prevent them diving into the firebox. Raccoons are capable of getting into everything (it's not for nothing we call them "Monkeys of the North").

The two weighed only about a pound each when they came (more than our one-pound scale could weigh, but too small to make any impact on the bathroom scale). Of the two sexes, we settled on calling them simply Boy and Girl. Boy was dark and a trifle larger than Girl. Girl was silvery white on the face. Both had the appealing dark eye-patches of normal raccoons. The fur at the time of arrival was short and fuzzy, and between their toes were long thin black hairs which gave their feet a cobwebbed appearance. From the first, their personalities were quite different. Boy was the more aggressive, always the one to pick the fights. Girl seemed to go along with almost anything, but quickly joined in whenever Boy started up his activities. They were and still are very close to each other.



Although during the years we have fed raccoons on our verandah, and have learned a number of raccoon vocalizations, we learned several more while Boy and Girl were with us. We have learned the snuffling sound that mother raccoons use to call their young, and the puffing sound which is definitely a "Keep your distance" phrase. We well know the yelling and commotion which comes from rival families roughing it up (they never seem to injure each other), and the loud chirps of communication between young raccoons and their mothers. Boy and Girl taught us several more. One was a definite purr, not the rumbling purr of a cat, but a broken erratic purr, which you could induce by stroking them.

You could put your hand on the sleeping baby raccoons and the purr would sleepily come back. If they were locked in the bathroom and wanted attention, they called loudly - the call of baby raccoons to their mothers. Girl contributed a loud and continuous screaming - a sound I have never heard in raccoons - on being picked up by an enthused visitor. Boy contributed "Huff" to our raccoon vocabulary. He huffed constantly when he didn't want to be handled, and he still does, or did until the two left for the winter.

What to feed and how, were both problems to be solved, and quickly, since Boy and Girl were unweaned. We settled on a mixture of warm milk, sugar (enough to make the mixture slightly sweet) and a jar of meat baby food (any meat or strained egg). At first this was fed six times a day, later only twice, but more at a feeding. Mary Adams, who arrived to see the guests, found the ideal feeder in our utensil drawer - a roast baster. With a controlled-stream feed method, the two raccoons took to the baster and thrived on it. Girl soon learned to pitch right into the food pot, ignoring the baster, and fed independently and well, albeit messily. Boy remained stubbornly on the roast baster and to our amazement demonstrated the ability to "chug-a-lug". He would open his mouth wide, flatten out his tongue, take a firm grip on the baster and simply take the food in until some invisible signal indicated "Fully topped", whereupon he shut his mouth, released his grip on the baster and moved off, obviously satisfied. As they got older, they learned to eat moistened dog chow, cat food, and almost anything which passed as potentially edible.

Naturally they got themselves liberally covered with food in the feeding process, and we knew from observation that raccoon mothers carefully clean and groom their young. So after each feeding, the kitchen sinks were filled with warm water, Boy and Girl popped in and allowed to play for a while, and then they were towelled off. What fun they had with the water! Supervision was important here or else you had a kitchen awash from one side to the other. In the process of washing, we also discovered that Boy and Girl reacted to the water as though it were some sort of toilet arrangement. From then on, we set a non-tippable deep

water bowl in the bathroom, and Boy and Girl were housebroken from then on. As simple as that.

Neither Boy nor Girl seemed to have done any climbing prior to coming to us. They soon began to regard us as some species of portable tree. They would make running jumps at us, and climb furiously. Soon our clothes were somewhat shredded from this constant climbing behaviour. They also played "King of the Castle", which involved climbing seated people, one arriving at the top of the head followed by the other. A furious battle to displace one or the other from the "pinnacle" would ensue, leaving the "castle" in some disarray. The rough brick fireplace was climbed regularly, and they would chase each other across the fireplace face, as easily as though they were running on the horizontal. The sofa was also a source of enjoyment to them. It had rough cloth on it, and of course a back to hide behind and chase about, and it became an important part of the daily itinerary.

Boy and Girl acted as though they enjoyed and were interested in all things, large and small. They played with corks, tennis balls, plastic toys, shoes, and even balls of paper. Both were endlessly fascinated by the two cats. Of the two, the deaf cat suffered most, since the raccoons would sneak up when he was sleeping and pull his tail or jump on top of him. Naturally this led to a lot of hissing, but both cats were well used to raccoons, and there were never any retaliatory measures.

The two behaved much as a team when moving about, making remarkably synchronized changes of direction, like a precision drill team in action. They rough-housed together most of their waking hours, and sham-fought. Here they faced off, two small furry mirror images, high-backed with heads low to the ground. They would huff and maintain this threatening posture until the game lost interest for one or both.

Almost everyone who has ever watched raccoons closely is struck by their curiosity. They will investigate anything, probing swiftly and surely with their nimble, more-or-less prehensile paws. With people, ears seemed to be a favourite subject, and a little set of fingers would dig into your ear, followed by a wet



"Girl" trying out dish-eating for the first time
Above: "Boy" photos by G.C. Bayly

snuffling nose. Boy managed on one occasion to investigate with his teeth, and actually nicked a small piece out of my ear. He was rewarded for this gesture by a sharp cuffing, the disciplinary measure taken by mother raccoons.

Both Boy and Girl learned that good things came from the refrigerator. You had only to open the door, and two baby raccoons hurtled inside. Once in, it was pretty difficult to dislodge them, because they could grasp the racks and hold on very hard. Occasionally, I would simply shut them in, leaving them there in the dark until their calling indicated they wanted out. Their investigations in the bathroom were directed at us. If you were washing, you were climbed. If you were taking a bath, a little furry animal would come splashing in on top of you.

Sleeping arrangements were quite simple. When they first came they slept in their soup box, with the bottom lined and the top covered with towels. They outgrew this, and we cleared the towel shelves under the sink in the bathroom for a sleeping place (we cleared it after we found that they preferred to sleep on the boards, and threw out all the towels). Often when we entered the bathroom in the morning, we would find the pair of them cradled in the hollow of the sink, together and sound asleep. This became their favourite sleeping place, despite the obvious problems involved in such a bed. In the evening the signal "bedtime" saw the two waddling down the hall toward the bathroom, shepherded by one of us acting as the Pied Piper.

Their attitude toward us and toward other people changed as they grew older. At first, they could be fondled by anyone who wanted to play with them. Soon however they identified only with us, and put up quite a fuss if others touched them. In fact Girl really finished the playing one day when Joanne, who was very capable and fond of animals, came to see them as she had done before. She walked into the bathroom, reached in and extracted Girl, who had been asleep (as usual). Girl reacted by (a) biting her (b) dirtying all down Joanne's clothes, and (c) setting up a furious and continuous screaming. Now most people would be deterred by such behaviour, but not Joanne. She calmly carried

Girl into the living room. By this time the screaming was at maximum volume, and was apparently affecting even Girl, since she was holding both paws to the top of her head. I went over, took Girl from Joanne, and the screaming and fussing immediately stopped. This was the last time we let anyone else pick up either Boy or Girl.

By this time we were beginning to think about getting them outside and back to more normal behaviour. We alerted the neighbours about them, then painted ears with methylene blue for fast identification, and began to let them out. At first they stayed close to us, and went in to the house when we did. Later they stayed away for longer and longer periods, arriving home to sleep, or when threatened by thunder storms. At last they began to sleep in ground nests, as other raccoons do, and we saw them only in the evening, when with the "outdoor" raccoons, they came to the verandah for a feed of dog chow. We noticed that the wild raccoons accepted them completely, even though they were not closely related to the group. For a while they travelled with one of the mothers, swelling her group from three to five.

They stayed evenings with the other raccoons for the evening meal, then left. While they weighed only six or seven pounds when let out in August, October and November found them nearly fully grown, round and fat, with thick fur. We could distinguish them only by their shorter ears (our local raccoons have rather pointed ears), and the fact that we could still pick them up and pat them. As winter came on, we became concerned that they might not find an overwintering place, and we even talked (half-seriously) of building an artificial insulated hollow tree under the verandah.

Fortunately, they have found a place, along with the others. The first heavy snow was the last we saw of Boy and Girl, who were still resolutely travelling as a pair. So they are asleep now for the winter, and we hope that they are living as normal raccoons. We miss them, and hope to see them again with the coming of the spring season.

(Yes, they made it through the winter. ..Editor)

Editor, T & L

Last March 12 I attended the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club annual dinner, and I am sure that all those people who contributed to the massive turnout were as thrilled as I was by Stewart MacDonald's fascinating talk and slide show on the far north. And I wonder how many people went home sadly pondering the fate of the fragile ecosystems in the Arctic which rely solely on the life-giving arteries of streams in the valleys. Here is a suggestion for those individuals who are as frustrated as I am by the inaction of the proper authorities to preserve the life of the arctic. Express concern by writing to the following:

1. The Minister of the Environment
House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6
2. Dr. John Tener, Director General
Canadian Wildlife Service
St. Joseph Blvd., Place Vincent Massey
Hull, Quebec K1A 0H3
3. Your local MP

expressing the following areas of concern:

1. The need for the immediate designation of ecological reserves in the Arctic and legislation for their preservation in perpetuity:
2. selective siting of pipelines by exploration agencies which would not endanger the life of the valleys.

Help save the animals, birds and plants of the north by not being part of the "silent majority" which in effect endorses the government's present stance of no action in the above matters. Enough species have suffered the fate of extinction by man's unthinking and insensitive onslaught in the search for "natural resources". Controls, proper management and regulation are vital for man and nature to coexist in harmony.

Marian Crain
2778 Rowatt Street
Ottawa K2B 6P1



Butterfly Outing

led by Don Lafontaine
on June 29 at the
Ottawa-Carleton
Conservation Centre
on Moodie Drive

by Joyce Reddoch

"That's a Long Dash female."



Comparing an American Copper and a Bronze Copper

Butterflies share their world with other living things. We took time to examine some of these - a blue-winged teal and its nest of ten creamy eggs, a tasty crop of strawberries, and numerous kinds of tiny, interesting ferns. Nests on the ground are vulnerable to predation, so we kept well away from the teal's nest and did not photograph it. But you can find glimpses of our other activities on these pages.

The strawberries distracted us from the butterflies but brought us on our hands and knees within sight of the minuscule ferns growing amongst them. We found plants of adder's tongue fern (Ophioglossum vulgatum), daisyleaf grape fern (Botrychium matricari-aefolium), dwarf grape fern (B. simplex), and some not readily identifiable plants which may be large examples of the dwarf grape fern, or may be mingan moonwort (B. minganense), a disputed species not yet found in this area. (Don Lafontaine is looking into this problem.)

Particularly satisfying was Gary Hanes' find of a new station (one plant) of the rare ebony spleenwort (Asplenium platyneuron) in the same field and about 100 yards from the only other known stand in the Ottawa Carleton Region.



Concentrating on strawberries instead of butterflies



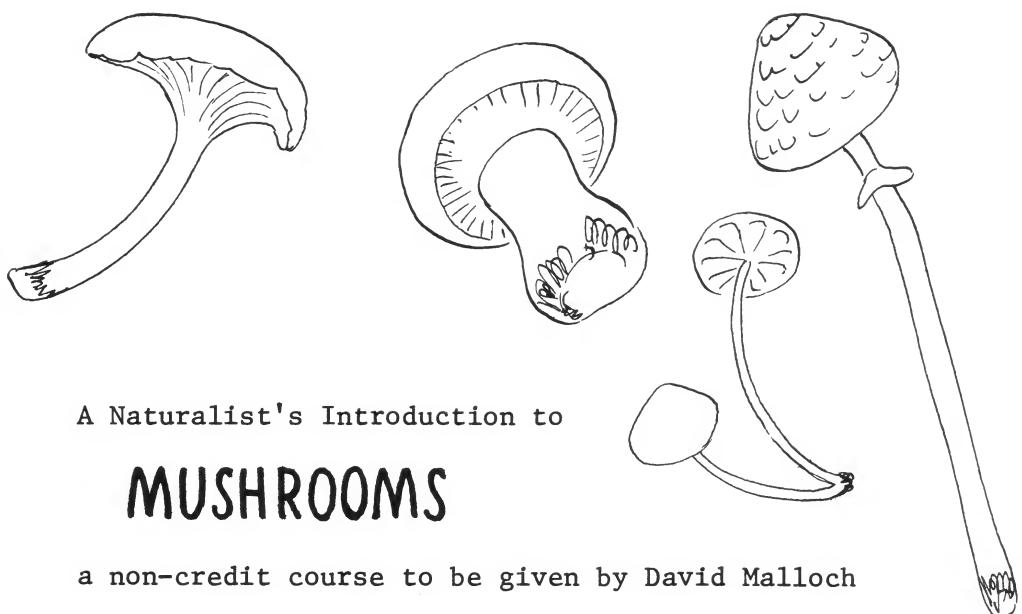
↑
Is it dwarf grape fern
or mingan moonwort?
(The plant is illustrated
here slightly larger than
lifesize.)

A new stand of
ebony spleenwort →



Detail of the leaf





A Naturalist's Introduction to

MUSHROOMS

a non-credit course to be given by David Malloch

10 sessions beginning September 14 Fee \$50.00
Saturdays 9 to 12 noon, and Mondays 7 to 9 p.m.

There are more species of mushrooms in Canada than flowering plants and their identification is made difficult by a dearth of available literature. This combined field and laboratory course will enable participants to identify and safely collect mushrooms either for the table or for scientific study. Emphasis will be on the collection, identification, use and natural history of mushrooms and will involve both field techniques and some introduction to laboratory procedures employed by professional mycologists.

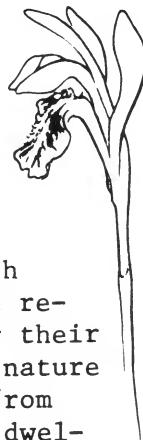
Registration can be made by mail or in person at the Office of Continuing Education, Third Level, Administration Building. Mailed registrations must include a cheque payable to Carleton University, the registrant's home address, home and business telephone numbers. Post-dated cheques cannot be accepted.

OFFICE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION, CARLETON UNIVERSITY
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(For more information, contact Mr. McKenna at 231-6660)

Friends of tomorrow's naturalists

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA



Are naturalists endangered organisms? As with threatened species, their numbers in future may be related to habitat preservation: natural areas near their homes where they can seek the peace and beauty of nature and study ecosystems which are legally protected from interference. Canadians soon will be mostly city dwellers. With increasing population, the pressure on land for housing, roads, recreation facilities and commercial activity will be much greater in the next few years. Any natural areas left near urban centres for future generations to enjoy must be saved by this generation.

Who is doing this important work? Obviously, we cannot leave it entirely to governments. They have commitments beyond their present revenues, and short term priorities that demand more immediate attention. Naturalists are most aware of the need for action, and through their organizations have purchased small areas to be preserved. But the rising price of land near urban centres has put such areas out of reach of small private groups. The possibility remains for private and public agencies working together to acquire natural areas for public use.

In Ontario, generous provincial grants are made in response to donations from private groups which raise "seed" money toward the purchase of conservation land. Donors have given money or land to such groups or directly to the Conservation Authorities. In all such cases, donations are deductible from Income Tax. A similar scheme is being studied for Quebec.

Our most active agency in the field of land conservation is the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the only national, non-profit, conservation organization whose resources are solely devoted to the preservation of ecologically significant land. To this end it co-operates with individuals, conservation organizations and government agencies at all levels in the selection and acquisition of suitable lands. (For a local example, see "Niven's Woods", p. 107.) It is the unique role of

the Conservancy to bring together the concern of the conservationist, the knowledge of the scientist, the financial resources of individuals, foundations and corporations, and the government and private agencies that can hold natural areas and maintain their quality.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is involved in projects in every province, and through its action many thousands of acres of woodlands, swamps, marshes, prairie, seashores, and islands are being preserved. Lands are acquired through purchase with funds raised locally and nationally, through donation by concerned individuals and organizations, and through co-operative programs with other public and private groups.

With regard to use, the natural quality of the area is of primary importance. Scientific research, outdoor education, and other non-destructive uses may be permitted, depending on the fragility of the area. Local volunteers, donors and members of other conservation groups work together with Conservancy representatives to formulate a management plan which provides for the maintenance and protection of the area.

The Conservancy holds title to some of its areas but conveys others to both private and governmental groups under legal agreement or a reverter clause to ensure their preservation and maintenance.

The Conservancy is financially supported by its special supporters, the public, charitable foundations, and corporations. Gifts of funds, securities, and land are tax-deductible.

- You can take part in the Conservancy's efforts by:
- * becoming a financial supporter of The Nature Conservancy of Canada;
 - * directly supporting, financially or otherwise, the acquisition of a natural land area;
 - * identifying and advising the Conservancy of land areas you believe should be preserved in their natural state and working to acquire these with Conservancy assistance.

For more information: The Nature Conservancy of Canada,
phone 2200 Yonge Street, Suite 611
(416)486-1011 Toronto, Ontario M4S 2E1

NIVEN'S WOODS



On the eastern edge of Ottawa in Gloucester Township lies a woodland of 22 acres surrounded by residential streets. This land is zoned for estate lots, but has escaped development so far because of its difficult terrain. For many years tolerant owners of the property have permitted local residents to enjoy its cool shade, picturesque paths, bridge and stream, and to explore its fascinating cliff and swamp. With the rising price of urban land and demand for housing lots, however, it seems inevitable that Niven's Woods will soon be cut by roads. Houses, lawns and swimming pools will appear there instead of wildflowers, ferns and trees. An irreplaceable asset - a natural area within a fully developed community - will be lost forever.

This is not just another piece of vacant land to be developed. Niven's Woods is unique in Gloucester Township. Although some 20% of the township is woods, most occurs on poorly drained, very acid soil in rural parts near the Mer Bleue. Urbanized North Gloucester is built on richer, heavier agricultural soil. Niven's Woods escaped clearing because of its steep slopes and swampy spots, but this pocket of rich calcareous soil shelters a fascinating community of plants, suggestive of woodlands far to the south of Ottawa. Several plants are known from no other location in Gloucester, and few within the Ottawa District. More important, however, is the fact that here is a rich, undisturbed mature woodland available as an outdoor classroom for the seven schools within walking distance.

When the threat to Niven's Woods became imminent, local residents began to search for means to preserve it. First, members of Gloucester Pollution Probe took the idea before Township Council, and to the various community associations. Council was sympathetic but unable to put up the large purchase price, rumoured then to be about \$250,000 (escalating ever since). As more people became interested, a separate group formed, and affiliated with The Nature Conservancy of Canada as a local committee: the Niven's Woods Conservancy.



A valuable community resource in all seasons A. Hanes

The owner has been contacted and appears willing to discuss sale of the property, although he is sceptical that the Conservancy can raise enough money to buy it. Meanwhile, his subdivision plan is awaiting approval by various committees, giving the Conservancy a few months in which to act.

A publicity campaign began with publication of a brief describing the Woods and its value to the community; this was given to local science teachers and anyone known to have some interest in such a project. A news release brought wider coverage, and Conservancy members spoke on radio and TV. A slide presentation has been prepared to show to personnel of funding agencies, executives of community groups, and others who might help in the campaign to raise money.

Conservancy members are well aware of the treasure to be lost should Niven's Woods become another subdivision, but great difficulty is met in the attempt to alert a wider public. To introduce its special features to area residents who have not seen the Woods, an invitation has been circulated to tour the Woods with Key Club members. This enthusiastic group of students has also provided great help in distribution of information.

Means of assembling funds are being explored. It is believed that government agencies will contribute the major portion of the price, if private citizens demonstrate support of the project by making substantial donations. The campaign for funds is underway. A bilingual folder describing the Woods, and a letter appealing for help in preserving it, have gone out to about 500 homes nearby. A house by house canvass is being conducted to ask for donations. Initial contacts with government funding agencies have been encouraging. Success would seem to depend on a show of strong citizen support, which is not in evidence yet. Is the public ready to defend this natural area?

Total number of supporters is important, as well as amount raised. Readers who would like to see us win this one are urged to send a cheque payable to The Nature Conservancy of Canada ("for Niven's Woods") to 2200 Yonge St., Toronto M4S 2E1. Your donation is tax-deductible, or returnable should the project fail.

SHAGBARK HICKORY IN THE VICINITY OF DESCHENES, QUEBEC

J.D. Lafontaine and D.J. White

Shagbark Hickory (Carya ovata) is one of the rarest trees in the Ottawa District. From the St. Lawrence River region southward, it is fairly common; however, north of the St. Lawrence, in eastern Ontario and western Quebec, it is known from only four localities: two in the Ottawa District, one near the Rideau River north of Crosby, Ontario, and one at Calumet, Quebec.

Shagbark Hickory was found in the Ottawa District for the first time on September 2, 1882 on an excursion of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club to Deschenes, Quebec. The second location for the District was found in 1911 near the South Nation River, one mile south of Casselman, Ontario. Today this area is open farmland and no trace of the hickory remains. The grove at Deschenes, or an extension of it, was rediscovered in 1952 by H. Rhodes and F. Florian in the cottage area along the Ottawa River to the west of Deschenes. This grove appears to be relatively safe at present; however, future development or road construction in the area could endanger it.

To get a better idea of the location and extent of the colony, we conducted a survey of the hickories in the Deschenes area on February 23, 1974. A total of 122 trees were located and measured. The trees range in size from 9" c.b.h. (circumference at breast height) to 54" c.b.h. In addition to the trees, a number of saplings were noted. The growth rings on a tall stump of 35" c.b.h. indicated that the tree had been about 60 years old when it was cut. By extrapolating from this, we estimate that the largest trees are about 100 years old.

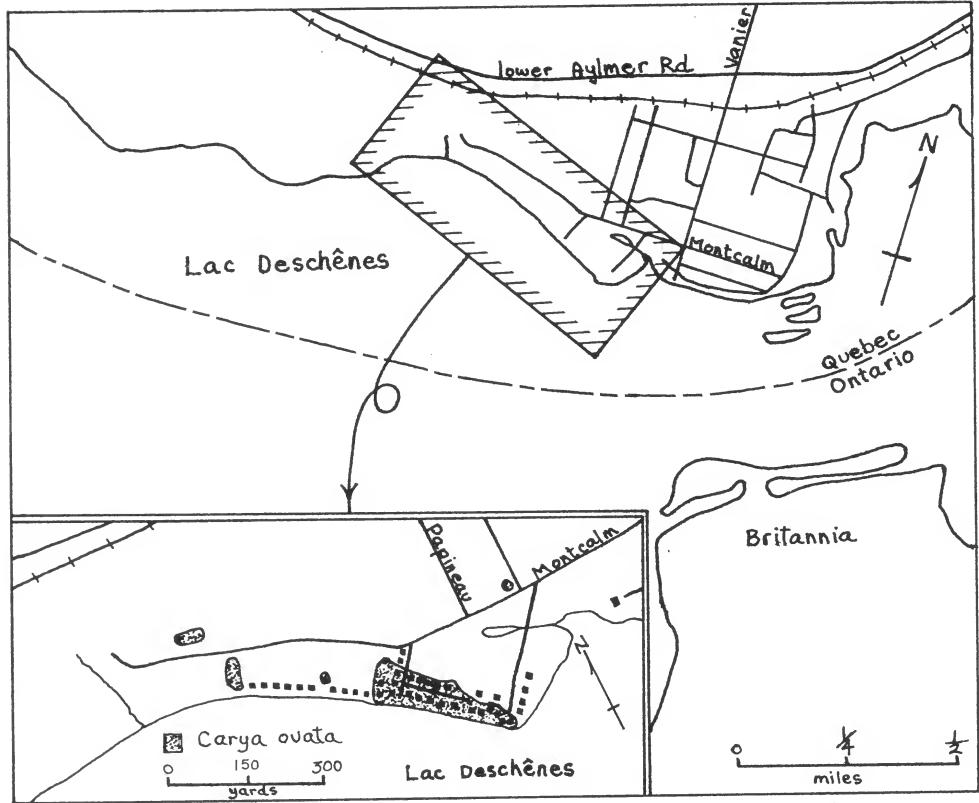
We have included a map showing the location of the colony in the hope that the eventual destruction of the grove can be avoided.



Hickory habitat

Shagbark Hickory

Prints by W. Stafford from slides by J.D. Lafontaine



Comments on the ecology elective at Roland Michener
Public School in Kanata taught by five parents

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT A LOCAL LEVEL

Diana Pilsworth, Pollution Probe - Kanata

A big drawback to a parent elective programme is that the class teachers are absent, and therefore, not learning how they might teach the programme themselves. If we teach next year, we will insist that a teacher participate.

We have been surprised at our own ability. Everyone is nervous, but once the class is underway, we have managed reasonably well.

The children, a group of 14 grade 7 and 8 students, are not well informed, environmentally speaking. In our last class, which dealt with the subject of solid waste, we carried out a quiz prepared by two Lisgar Collegiate students who belong to the Probe Action Committee. It was discouraging to discover that not one student knew what happened to Ottawa's garbage, and that only two out of the 14 thought before buying non-returnable containers. In fact, they did not know why they should give a thought to the subject of non-returnable bottles at all. While talking about categories of municipal solid waste with them, we discovered also that not one knew plastic to be a petro-chemical product.

There is tremendous potential in the field of environmental education. The problem is not lack of material (we have plenty and so has Pollution Probe - Ottawa). We need to have a better liaison with the teachers and more knowledge of existing environmental programmes. For instance, if the science teacher had taught processes of decomposition before we taught solid waste, our class would have been so much more effective.

We have compiled a detailed resumé of our complete ecology elective, which is intended to encourage and inform others who might have been asked to do the same thing. A copy is with the Pollution Probe - Ottawa office and everyone is more than welcome to use it.

(from the "Prober")

MINING LOGGING OIL SNOWMOBILES SKI RESORTS GARBAGE DUMPS

Yes, even garbage dumps.

The pressures on our wilderness areas continue to escalate, driven by increasing population, consumption of resources, development of the technology of exploitation. And we must not kid ourselves that the declaration of an area as a National Park will suddenly cause all these pressures to evaporate. It does not.

Closer to home, our own beautiful Gatineau Park does not even have the protection of Park status.

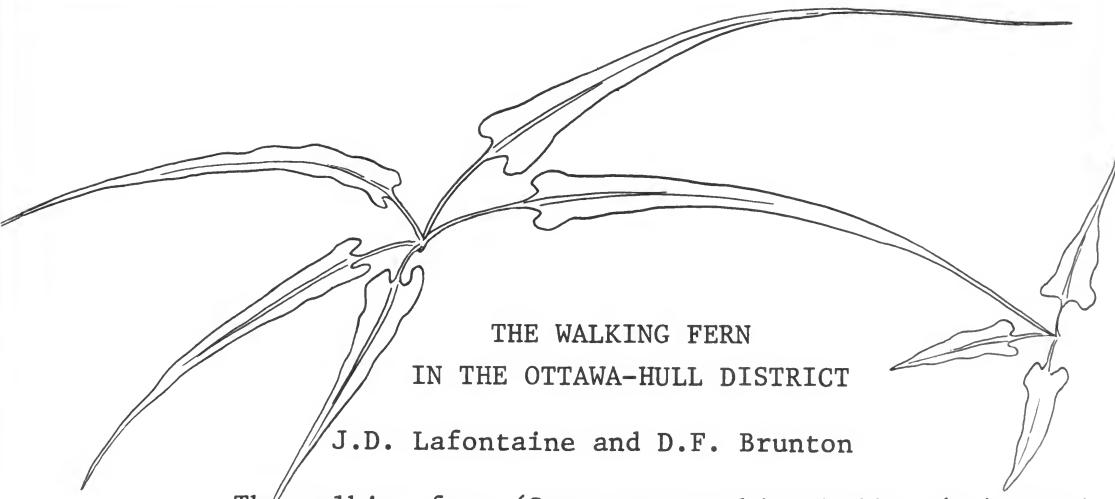
But we simple folk who know and love the natural beauty of our country, and feel it important that our children and their children have the opportunity to see and hear and feel as we can yet awhile -- can we oppose the mighty machines and the millions of dollars and the great corporations? Yes, we can. But we must be heard.

Listen to a man who has done a fair share of opposing - the Hon. Jean Chretien as Minister of National Parks - "We will need even more public support than we have had" and "Politicians must know that the public wants more parks. Those in government who control the allocation of funds must be persuaded that park needs are real, vital and of first priority."

Our combined voices can shout down the machines and the millions and the corporations. Won't you join us in the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada, an organization devoted to

- increasing public appreciation of our Parks
- presenting carefully researched briefs on suitable zoning and use of existing Parks
- providing the support that politicians and public servants need to resist pressures of encroachment on Parks Membership includes subscription to our journal, Park News, and the Parks for Tomorrow newsletter.

For more information write to:
National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada
Ottawa-Hull Chapter PO Box 6242 Stn J, Ottawa K2A 1T4
or phone 232-3549 during office hours.



THE WALKING FERN IN THE OTTAWA-HULL DISTRICT

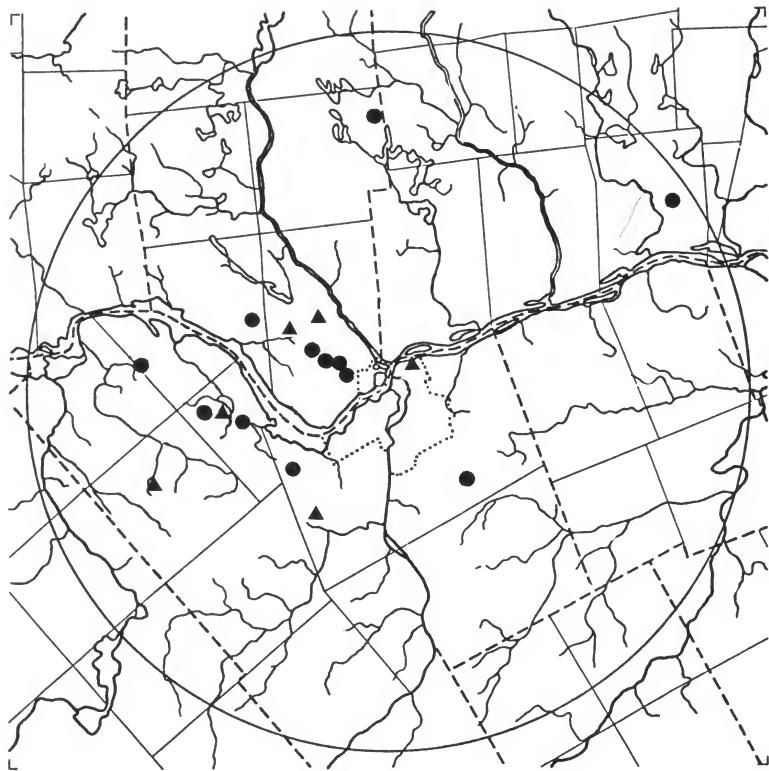
J.D. Lafontaine and D.F. Brunton

The walking fern (Camptosorus rhizophyllus (L.)Link.) is one of the most intriguing ferns found in the Ottawa-Hull District. It grows on calcareous rock, usually limestone or marble in the Ottawa area, and at times forms large mats containing many thousands of fronds. Each plant forms a clump of long, arrowhead-shaped leaves which arch back down to the surface of the rock. If the tip of a leaf is in contact with a mossy spot on a rock suitable for growth, the tip takes root and produces a new plant. This process of vegetative reproduction may continue and after several years the fern may appear to be 'walking' along the rock.

In the Ferns of the Ottawa District (Cody 1956) the walking fern is described as being rare in this area with only six stations known. In the past few years several local naturalists have been on the lookout for areas with the proper habitat for this fern. These efforts have led to the discovery of twelve new colonies of walking fern in the District and have shown it to be locally common in suitable habitats.

In the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Hull District, walking fern is found along the edges of limestone ridges, usually in heavily shaded areas such as those under cedars. In the Quebec portion of the District there are very few areas of surface limestone and so far walking fern has been found only in the Canadian shield where it grows on marble boulders and ledges in shaded woods and ravines.

We urge naturalists to watch for this interesting fern, particularly in the northern and eastern parts of the District, and to report their findings.



▲ Stations reported in Ferns of the Ottawa District

● NEW STATIONS (left to right):

Ontario

- 1 2.0 mi W. Woodlawn
- 2 0.3 mi NW. Malwood
- 3 0.4 mi W. Mud Pond
- 4 1.2 mi N. Eaglesons Crns
- 5 1.8 mi SE. Leitrim

Quebec

- 6 1.0 mi NW. Champlain Lookout
- 7 0.1 mi N. Baillie-Mountain Roads intersection
- 8 1.6 mi W. Pink Lake
- 9 0.4 mi E. Pink Lake
- 10 1.2 mi SE. Pink Lake
- 11 2.0 mi SW. Poltimore
- 12 4.0 mi N. Thurso

We appreciate the assistance of the following for information on particular stations: Dr. C. Frankton (Stns 4 & 10); Mr. J.E.H. Martin (Stn 1); Mrs. Anne Hanes, Drs. Allan and Joyce Reddoch (Stn 5).

REF. Cody, W.J. 1956. Ferns of the Ottawa District. Can. Dept. Agric. Publ. 974, Queen's Printer, Ottawa.

O F N C FALL PROGRAM

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee
Roger A. Foxall (745-7791), Chairman

BIRDS IN FALL MIGRATION

VISITS TO OTTAWA BEACH AND SHIRLEYS BAY

Saturday 7 September Leader: Monty Brigham (232-2135)
14 " " Rick Poulin (232-4687)
21 " " Roger Foxall (745-7791)
28 " " Stephen O'Donnell (737-5270)
5 October " Arnet Sheppard (722-0991)
12 " " Roger Taylor

Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre
Time: 7:30 a.m.

Bring waterproof footwear. Walks last until noon at least.

Sunday
8 Sept

FIELD TRIP: INSECTS
Leader: Monty Wood (722-9213)
Meet: Health and Welfare Building
Tunney's Pasture
Time: 9:00 a.m.

Bring a snack.

Sunday
8 Sept

FIELD TRIP: EVENING BIRDING AT RAMSAYVILLE
MARSH
Leader: Roger Foxall (745-7791)
Meet: Anderson Road at CNR tracks north
of Russell Road
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Recent changes in the marsh have made it an ideal place
to study waders, shorebirds and waterfowl in the even-
ing. Be sure to bring waterproof footwear.

Tuesday 10 Sept	MONTHLY MEETING WETLANDS ECOLOGY
	Speaker: Dr. Isobel Bayly (Curator of the Herbarium, Department of Biology, Carleton University)
	Meet: Auditorium, Ottawa Public Library <u>Laurier and Metcalfe Streets</u>
	Time: 8:00 p.m.

Sunday 29 Sept	FIELD TRIP: FALL MUSHROOMS AND TOADSTOOLS IN THE GATINEAU
	Leaders: Jim Ginns (827-0212) and David Malloch (225-4920)
	Meet: Health and Welfare Building Tunney's Pasture
	Time: 9:00 a.m.

Bring a basket, hand lens and a snack.

Tuesday 8 Oct.	MONTHLY MEETING THE LIFE HISTORIES AND DISTRIBUTION OF FROGS WITHIN THE OTTAWA AREA
	Speaker: Francis Cook (Curator of Herpe- tology, National Museum of Natural Sciences)
	Meet: St. Andrew's Church, Kent and Wellington Streets
	Time: 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 19 Oct	FIELD TRIP: FERNS
	Leader: Don Lafontaine
	Meet: Supreme Court, Wellington Street
	Time: 9:00 a.m.

Bring a snack.

PLEASE NOTE that the <u>September Monthly Meeting</u> will be held in the auditorium of the new Ottawa Public Library at the corner of Laurier and Metcalfe Streets. The <u>October Monthly Meeting</u> will be held in St. Andrew's Church, Kent and Wellington Streets.

ISSN 0041-0748

T R A I L & L A N D S C A P E

published by

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Second Class Mail - Registration Number 2777
Postage paid in cash at Ottawa

Change of Address Notices and undeliverable Copies:
Box 3264 Postal Station C, Ottawa, Ont.
K1Y 4J5
Return postage guaranteed



Lithographed by
John Marquardt, Printer